

**Statement by State Minister for Foreign Affairs
Kentaro Sonoura, Head of the Delegation of Japan
to the IAEA International Conference
on Nuclear Security, December 5, 2016**

Mr. President,

Director General,

Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to welcome the convening of the Second International Conference on Nuclear Security organized by the IAEA, and express our sincere gratitude to Mr. President, Minister Yun, for his work in hosting this conference.

The threat of nuclear terrorism remains one of the greatest challenges to international security, and potential threats such as sabotage of nuclear facilities are constantly evolving.

Moreover, North Korea's repeated series of provocative actions such as two nuclear tests and repeated ballistic missile launches this year represents a grave challenge to the international security and nuclear non-proliferation regime and a threat of a new dimension. It is important that the international community further strengthens pressure on North Korea through strict implementation of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 2321 which was newly adopted on November 30th.

The Nuclear Security Summits, launched in 2010, have raised international awareness and facilitated various activities. It is now the IAEA's turn to build on these achievements and play a central role in global efforts to promote nuclear security. Japan believes that the IAEA should

continue and further strengthen its work in establishing rules and plans regarding nuclear security under the leadership of Director General Yukiya Amano. In this regard, the Government of Japan fully supports Mr. Amano's re-election, and will provide its utmost assistance.

As part of such efforts, Japan will continue to support the IAEA's activities such as capacity building and providing assistance to strengthen nuclear security particularly in Southeast Asia.

Also, we will spare no effort to promote the universalization of the Amendment to the CPPNM, and to follow up on the advice by the IAEA's IPPAS mission to Japan in February 2015.

In 2020, Japan will host the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo. In order to

strengthen our counter-terrorism measures, we will work with the IAEA to take advantage of its expertise in preventing nuclear terrorism at major international public events.

As part of our efforts to minimize and appropriately manage nuclear materials, Japan will steadily implement its commitments at the latest Nuclear Security Summit.

Japan has long been a global leader in promoting transparency in civil nuclear energy. This is clear from Japan's implementation of rigorous IAEA safeguards, proper management of all nuclear materials, and maintenance of a high level of transparency regarding plutonium, in particular by publishing a detailed annual report through the IAEA.

Japan has also been leading international capacity building efforts through ISCN, the first support center for enhancing nuclear security in Asia. The ISCN has received more than 3,100 experts for training course over the past five years and also facilitates cooperation among the IAEA Member States' Centers of Excellence.

Spearheading nuclear security discussions is another area of our global contribution. This year, Japan has made extra efforts by taking on the G7 Presidency and serving as Chair of the Global Partnership.

Our leadership will continue into next year, when we will host the plenary meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in June along with the U.S. and Russian co-chairs.

Japan, as a lead country, intends to have the Nuclear Security Summit Gift Basket on Transport Security as an IAEA INFCIRC and re-open it for welcoming new co-sponsorships.

Mr. President,

As a country that has peacefully utilized nuclear energy with the highest level of transparency, Japan is proud to have garnered international confidence. We will relentlessly work to further strengthen domestic and global nuclear security, as well as to support the activities of the IAEA and the international community.

Thank you.